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PROVISIONAL SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 40th MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Thursday, 30 July 1992, at 10 a.m.

President: Mr. MROZIEWICZ (Poland)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.25 a.m.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS (continued) (E/1992/113)

Mr. YENEL (Turkey) drew attention to a letter dated 17 July 1992 from the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) addressed to the Secretary-General (E/1992/113), informing him that the General Conference of UNESCO had unanimously adopted resolution 5.6, entitled "Consultations with the United Nations with a view to declaring 1995 United Nations year for tolerance" (E/1992/113, annex). He requested the Council to take note of the letter and the resolution of the General Conference and to transmit it to the General Assembly for consideration.

It was so decided.

COORDINATION QUESTIONS (continued):

(c) INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF INFORMATICS (continued) (E/1992/L.37)

Mr. DEKANY (Observer for Hungary), introducing draft resolution E/1992/L.37 on behalf of the sponsors, said that, in its resolution 1991/70 the Economic and Social Council requested the Secretary-General to prepare a study analysing the causes of the current situation with respect to United Nations informatics systems and providing an outline of a rapid solution to the problem. In his report (E/1992/78), the Secretary-General recognized that, with the availability of comparatively inexpensive microcomputer technology and the advent of constantly declining prices for use of global telecommunications networks, there was a keen desire on the part of Member States to have easy access to United Nations databases. The draft resolution called for urgent measures to achieve easy and economical access for all Member States and observers, through their permanent missions in particular,

(Mr. Dekany, Observer, Hungary)

to United Nations computerized databases and information systems and services. The sponsors hoped that the draft resolution would be adopted by consensus.

ELECTIONS

Commission on Science and Technology for Development

Committee on Natural Resources

Committee on New and Renewable Source of Energy and on Energy for Development

After a procedural discussion in which Mr. MARTIN (United Kingdom), Mr. EHLERS (Observer for Uruguay), Mr. PAULINICH (Peru), Mr. SETH (India), Mr. GUERRERO (Philippines), Mr. LAYNE (Observer for Saint Vincent and the Grenadines), Mr. NEGA (Ethiopia), Mr. SERGIWA (Observer for the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya), Mr. RANDRIAMALALA (Madagascar), Mr. AL-FAIHANI (Bahrain), Mr. AMAZIANE (Morocco), Mr. LAACK (Observer for the Marshall Islands), Mr. DANERI (Argentina), Mr. SCHÖNLEITER (Germany), Mr. SARDENBERG (Brazil), Mr. AL-KHARASHI (Saudi Arabia), and Ms. STRUYVENBERG (Executive Office of the Secretary-General) took part, the PRESIDENT proposed that the Council should proceed to vote on the candidates whose names had already been submitted in respect of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, the Committee on Natural Resources, and the Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and on Energy for Development, and that the additional candidatures should be provided to the Secretariat immediately, in order that voting on them could take place later that day or the following morning.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT accordingly invited the Council to vote on the States whose names had been submitted in respect of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development.

Antigua and Barbuda, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Egypt, Ethiopia, Germany, Guatemala, India, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kuwait, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, the Marshall Islands, Mexico, Morocco, the Netherlands, Pakistan, the Philippines, Romania, the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Uganda, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and Uruguay were elected by acclamation.

The PRESIDENT noted that the Council was also to elect, at a later meeting, a further eight members from African States, two from Asian States, one from Eastern European States and six from the Group of Western European and Other States.

He invited the Council to elect 24 government-nominated experts for the Committee on Natural Resources.

Mr. DOLGOPOLOV (Russian Federation), Mr. MEJIA ANGEL (Colombia) and Mr. PAVLOVSCHI (Romania) were elected by acclamation.

The PRESIDENT noted that the Council was also to elect, at a later meeting, a further six candidates from African States, five from Asian States, one from Eastern European States and three from Latin American and Caribbean States to the Committee on Natural Resources.

Since there were more candidates from the Group of Western European and Other States than there were vacancies to be filled from that group, he invited the Council to elect six experts from the Group by secret ballot from the list of names contained in document E/1992/114.

At the invitation of the President, Mrs. Belmar (Mexico) and Mr. Barac (Romania) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

Number of ballot papers:	53
Number of valid ballots:	53
Abstentions:	1
Number of members voting:	52
Required majority:	27
Number of votes obtained:	
Mr. Rieck (Germany)	48
Mr. Davis (Canada)	47
Mr. Rutland (Australia)	45
Mr. Oudshoorn (Netherlands)	44
Ms. Falkenmark (Sweden)	43
Mr. Farinelli (Italy)	42
Mr. Bilen (Turkey)	35

Mr. Rieck (Germany), Mr. Davis (Canada), Mr. Rutland (Australia), Mr. Oudshoorn (Netherlands), Ms. Falkenmark (Sweden) and Mr. Farinelli (Italy), having obtained the required majority, were elected.

The PRESIDENT invited the Council to elect 24 government-nominated experts for the Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and on Energy for Development.

Mr. Boumaour (Algeria), Mr. Costa Filho (Brazil), Mr. Musatescu (Romania), Mr. Penchev (Bulgaria), Mr. Restrepo Salazar (Colombia), Mr. Rodas Rodas (Paraguay) and Mr. Volfberg (Russian Federation) were elected by acclamation.

The PRESIDENT noted that the Council was also to elect, at a later meeting, a further five candidates from African States, five from Asian States and one from Latin American and Caribbean States.

Since there were more candidates from the Group of Western European and Other States than there were vacancies to be filled from that group, he invited the Council to elect six experts from the group by secret ballot from the list of names contained in document E/1992/115.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Al-Dosari (Bahrain) and Mr. Kobayashi (Japan) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

Number of ballot papers:	53
Number of valid ballots:	53
Abstentions:	1
Number of members voting:	52
Majority required:	27
Number of votes obtained:	
Mr. Devin (France)	48
Mr. Guthermuth (Germany)	40
Mr. Hein (Austria)	37
Mr. Pinchera (Italy)	34
Mr. Johansson (Sweden)	32
Mr. Turkenburg (Netherlands)	31
Mr. Isachsen (Norway)	30
Mr. Dietrich (Denmark)	27
Mr. Gerresch (Belgium)	26

Mr. Devin (France), Mr. Guthermuth (Germany), Mr. Hein (Austria), Mr. Pinchera (Italy), Mr. Johansson (Sweden) and Mr. Turkenburg (Netherlands), having obtained the required majority, were elected.

Elections postponed from previous sessions

Population Commission

The PRESIDENT said that the Secretariat had been informed by the Chairman of the Group of African States that Cameroon and the United Republic of Tanzania had been nominated to fill the two vacancies from that group in the Population Commission for a four-year term beginning on 1 January 1993.

Cameroon and the United Republic of Tanzania were elected by acclamation.

Commission on Human Settlements

The PRESIDENT said that the Secretariat had been informed by the Chairman of the Group of African States that the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malawi and Somalia had been nominated to fill three of the five vacancies from that group in the Commission on Human Settlements for a four-year period beginning on 1 January 1993.

Mr. MAINO (Papua New Guinea), speaking as the Chairman of the Asian Group, said that Indonesia had been endorsed as a candidate from that group.

Indonesia, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malawi and Somalia were elected by acclamation.

Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting

The PRESIDENT said that the Secretariat had been informed by the Chairman of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States that Panama had been nominated to fill the vacancy from that Group in the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 1993.

Panama was elected by acclamation.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR THE SECOND DECADE TO COMBAT RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION (E/1992/104)

Report of the Social Committee

The PRESIDENT said that if he heard no objection he would take it that the Council wished to adopt the draft resolution recommended for adoption by the Social Committee in paragraph 16 of document E/1992/104.

The draft resolution was adopted.

Mr. KUEHL (United States of America), speaking in explanation of vote, said that his delegation had joined the consensus in the adoption of the draft resolution on the grounds that, in most respects, it reflected the situation in South Africa and would encourage all the parties to press forward in the search for a democratic and non-racial society.

With regard to the thirteenth preambular paragraph and paragraph 5, however, both of which concerned the impact of international pressure on developments in South Africa, his delegation wished to point out that, while international pressure had undeniably exerted some influence on South Africa's policies, there had not always been agreement as to the most effective approaches to achieving the universally desired goal of a non-racial and democratic society. The United States firmly believed that the most appropriate and effective means to encourage all parties to return to negotiations were such measures as those adopted by the Security Council and the pressure of international attention, as evidenced, for example, by the visit of the United Nations representative, Cyrus Vance.

Mr. SEZAKI (Japan) said that his delegation welcomed the consensus on the draft resolution, but wished to express its reservations with regard to paragraph 8, which referred to a Convention which only two States had so far ratified and which was therefore of doubtful relevance.

ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN (E/1992/24, E/1992/105)

Report of the Social Committee

The PRESIDENT invited the Council to turn its attention to the report of the Social Committee on the advancement of women (E/1992/105). In paragraph 31 of the report, eight draft resolutions were recommended for adoption by the Council. The text of draft resolutions I to VII was contained in the report of the Commission on the Status of Women (E/1992/24, chap. I, sect A).

Draft resolution I

Draft resolution I was adopted.

Draft resolution II

The PRESIDENT said it would be recalled that the Social Committee had adopted draft resolution II by 33 votes to 1, with 17 abstentions, in a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was taken on draft resolution II.

In favour: Algeria, Angola, Australia, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Benin, Botswana, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Chile, China, Colombia, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Guinea, India, Jamaica, Kuwait, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Rwanda, Somalia, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Yugoslavia, Zaire.

Against: United States of America.

Abstaining: Argentina, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Poland, Romania, Russian Federation, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Draft resolution II was adopted by 33 votes to 1, with 18 abstentions.

Mr. KUEHL (United States of America), speaking in explanation of vote, said that his country abhorred apartheid as a system that had denied individuals their most basic human rights, and that no country was more firmly opposed than his own to a system of government that stood in such stark contrast to the principles of human rights and freedoms enshrined in the Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It welcomed the fact that a resolution on women and children under apartheid acknowledged the progress that had been made towards ending that repugnant system, and his delegation had tried hard to reach a compromise on the wording of the draft, since it would be of no value if the international community were to send mixed signals on such an important issue. Rather than using harsh and outdated rhetoric, the resolution should have aimed at encouraging the negotiating process, and it has been for that reason that his delegation had called for a recorded vote and had voted against the draft resolution.

Mr. SHARP (Australia), speaking in explanation of vote, said that his delegation had voted in favour of the draft resolution, but would have preferred to see wording which more closely reflected current developments in South Africa.

Draft resolution III

The PRESIDENT said it would be recalled that the draft resolution had been adopted by the Social Committee by a recorded vote of 36 to 1, with 13 abstentions.

Mr. KUEHL (United States of America), calling for a recorded vote, said that his country opposed certain measures practised by Israel in the occupied territories, including deportations, the excessive use of force and curfews, the closing of schools and universities, demolition of housing as a form of collective punishment, and arbitrary administrative detention. It also opposed settlement activity as an obstacle to peace, and believed that Israel was under an obligation to adhere to the terms of the Fourth Geneva Convention. However, to focus exclusively on the occupation and the practices of the Israeli security forces would be one-sided: other factors, such as Israeli and Palestinian violence, intimidation and various actions which had disrupted Palestinian economic activity had also adversely affected the situation of Palestinian women and children. His country strongly supported humanitarian asistance for the Palestinian people, and indeed furnished such assistance itself.

Direct negotiations based on Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973) had begun between an Israeli delegation and a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, as well as between Israeli and Syrian and Lebanese delegations. The United States strongly supported those negotiations as the best means of resolving crucial political problems. It was regrettable that elements in the draft resolution prejudged their outcome, and his delegation would accordingly vote against the draft resolution.

Draft resolution III was adopted by 37 votes to 1, with 14 abstentions.

Mr. SHARP (Australia), speaking in explanation of vote, said that his delegation's abstention was due to its reservation with regard to the term "occupied Palestinian territory". It would have been preferable to refer to "the territories occupied by Israel since 1967".

Draft resolution IV

Mr. KUEHL (United States of America) said that his delegation would not associate itself with, but would not oppose, the adoption of the draft resolution by consensus. Its concern should not be interpreted as indicating any lack of support for the work of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, but it could not reconcile the proposals contained in the draft resolution with the efforts now being made to control the costs of the United Nations as a whole.

It continued to believe strongly that in an era of budget constraint the United Nations system must make every effort to streamline its operations in order to ensure that key objectives were accomplished without endless requests for additional resources. Admittedly, the workload of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women had increased as additional States had become parties to the Convention, and there was a backlog of reports. Imaginative and cost-effective ways must, however, be found to deal with that situation.

Draft resolution IV was adopted.

Draft resolution V

Mr. KUEHL (United States of America) said that any financial implications arising from the draft resolution should be absorbed within the regular budget of the United Nations.

Draft resolution V was adopted.

Draft resolutions VI and VII

Draft resolutions VI and VII were adopted.

Draft resolution VIII

Mr. ISSA (Observer for Egypt) said that he wished it to be recorded that his delegation supported the draft resolution.

Draft resolution VIII was adopted.

The PRESIDENT invited the Council to consider the five draft decisions recommended for adoption by the Council in paragraph 32 of the Social Committee's report (E/1992/105). The text of draft decisions I and II was contained in the report of the Commission on the Status of Women (E/1992/24, chap. I, sect. B).

Draft decisions I to V

Draft decision I to V were adopted.

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT QUESTIONS (E/1992/106)

Report of the Social Committee

Mr. RANASINGHE (Observer for Sri Lanka) said that he wished to place on record his delegation's support for draft resolution VI on social development contained in document E/1992/106.

Mr. MARTIN (United Kingdom) pointed out that document E/1992/106 mistakenly included his delegation among those which had sponsored the draft resolution on social development calling for the convening of a world summit for social development.

OTHER MATTERS

Mr. AL-KHARASHI (Observer for Saudi Arabia) said that he wished to state for the record his delegation's objection to any decision or resolution which ran counter to Islamic law.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.